

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2003
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

ARKANSAS	- Chinese Tallow, light amber, \$1.24
CALIFORNIA	- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.25 - 1.30 - Buckwheat, light amber, \$1.25 - 1.30 - Cotton, light amber, \$1.25 - .30 - Mixed Flowers, extra light & light amber, \$1.30 - 1.40 - Orange, white, \$1.50 - 1.53 - Sage, white, \$1.54 - - - light amber, \$1.25 - 1.30
COLORADO	- Clover, white, \$1.50
FLORIDA	- Gallberry, cut comb, \$1.50 - Gallberry, extra light amber, \$1.30 - 1.45 - Orange, extra light amber, \$1.30 - 1.50 - Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, \$1.30 - 1.40
IDAHO	- Alfalfa/Clover, white, \$1.40-1.50 - - light amber, \$1.20-1.30
MONTANA	- Clover, white, \$1.50 - 1.60
NEBRASKA	- Clover, white, \$1.57
TEXAS	- Chinese Tallow, light amber, \$1.24
UTAH	- Alfalfa, white, \$1.50-1.60 - - - light amber, \$1.30-1.40
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.50 - 1.60

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

ALBERTA - Clover, white, \$1.47

ONTARIO - Ontario, floral source not reported, white, \$1.45

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....	BRAZIL	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.21
	EASTERN EUROPE	- Mixed flowers, white, \$1.40
	UKRAINE	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.41
	VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.18

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING JULY

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) φφφ

The damp season continued in July and temperatures hovered near to below normal for the month. Beekeepers are looking forward to some sunshine. There has been no shortage of flowering plants; however, nectar has been full of water and flight days have been limited by the rainy weather. This has resulted in very low honey production. Many beekeepers are preparing for state fairs this month and state officials are finding honey supplies and entries lower than normal. An occasional beekeeper has reported spotty brood patterns resulting in weak colonies. They figure it is a result of the late spring swarming and poor queen mating. Disease and pest problems remain at a minimum. Sourwood bloom has finished. Current nectar sources include clover, mixed wild flowers including thistle, Spanish needle and milkweed.

CALIFORNIA φφφ

The first two weeks of July were marked by intermittent low pressure systems that brought cooler temperatures but little to no precipitation. On the 7th, the heat returned, especially in Northern California, where high temperatures were 5-10 degrees above normal. Excessive humidity also combined with the heat, creating very humid conditions and frequent thunderstorms that brought very little rain but the lightning started numerous wildfires. On the 23rd and 24th, Death Valley set a record when their overnight lows were 102 & 103 degrees. The

month ended with hot conditions, again in the northern and central interiors and the southeast deserts. The thunderstorms also continued but did bring some rainfall to the Sacramento Valley.

Cotton is the main crop during July because it is irrigated and blooms for most of the month. During the bloom however, growers cultivate, fertilize and spray to control weeds and insect pests so beekeepers have to keep a close watch on their bees while they are in the cotton. Bees were also pollinating irrigated crops such as melon, vegetable and seed fields. The bees are reported to be in very healthy as they sit in the cotton fields but they are collecting very little nectar from tarweed in the mountains and blue curl due to the hot, dry weather and grasshoppers that ate the plants before the bees could get to the blooms. Not much of a crop is expected from these two plants except in a few isolated areas that received some rain. The sage and orange crop are also down this year. Most all honey crops are running behind this year.

Packers report they have been receiving calls from both domestic and foreign producers. They are anxious to sell their crops as soon as it is extracted because prices are still fairly high. Some wax handlers took in small amounts of wax for trade only.

GEORGIA φφφ

Colonies around the state were in only fair condition with most beekeepers around the state having to feed sugar and/or corn syrup to their colonies. Some hives have already begun to reduce populations. In late July only cotton in central Georgia was a significant source of nectar but its value has been sharply diluted due to continuing wet weather. No other significant sources of nectar or pollen were available as the end of the month approached. Honey production was reported to be the poorest in over a decade due to delayed effects of five years of drier than normal conditions adversely affecting nectar flow in perennials (various brambles, bushes and trees) which are the major supplies of nectar for the colonies in the state. This spring and summer's excessively wet weather then further diluted the nectar that was available. Weather during July continued to be hot and excessively wet.

IDAHO φφφ

July weather was very hot and dry, one of the hottest July's in history. Bees are in good condition and are starting to produce honey. However, honey production is expected to be variable as the hot weather started to dry out the alfalfa blossoms. Many areas of the State received rain the last week in July and there is hope that it will bring on another alfalfa bloom. Apiarists are putting supers on the hives and some are moving the hives at night from yard to yard to try and get more honey. The main source of nectar is alfalfa with other sources from mint, wild flowers, goldenrod, and white clover. The bees are being moved out of carrots and onions as they are getting ready to harvest for seed.

ILLINOIS φφφ

July temperatures were below normal in northern sections of the state while the west, central and southern sections received ample to surplus rainfall. Temperatures ranged from the low to mid-80's for daytime highs and in the high 50's to mid-60's for overnight lows in the north while temperatures in the south and central regions were mostly in the low 90's for daytime highs and in the low 70's for overnight lows the first of the month. Ample to surplus rainfall and high temperatures dominated the weather pattern for the remainder of the month.

Continued frequent rains that had hampered spring crop planting and slowed normal plant growth has decreased honey extraction and yields have been disappointing. Most of the state's beekeepers reported the quality of the honey crop has been below normal. Some beekeepers have not expressed a willingness to harvest some hives due to the honey quality.

Floral sources for the month were mostly Dutch clover and a small flow from wild flowers. Most colonies were reported healthy with very few reporting mite problems.

Retail honey sales were reported moderate. Bulk Honey movement was reported to be moderate to very good. Prices remained stable on the retail level.

MISSISSIPPI φφφ

Colonies around the state were in good condition with populations still near peak levels. The honey flow was complete in the southern portion of the state but production of honey continued in the northern portion of the state with soybean, cotton and a few wildflowers, mainly blue vervain, being the nectar sources. Production in the northern portion of the state is expected to continue through August. No feeding of hives was necessary as the month ended with hives in the southern portion of the state drawing food from scattered wildflowers or honey still remaining in the hive from the completed flow. In the northern portion of the state the colonies were sustaining themselves from the sources mentioned above in their honey production. Beekeepers reported honey production better than average in the southern portion of the state and below average in the northern portion of the state with some further production still expected from the current flow. Weather around the state continued to be hot and wet during most of the month.

MISSOURI, IOWA AND KANSAS φφφ

Temperatures during July were normal to slightly below normal. Precipitation was below over Western Missouri, Kansas and parts of Iowa. The eastern half of Missouri had normal to slightly above normal during July. The U. S. Drought Monitor shows a band from east to west which was abnormally dry in Central Missouri, Southern Iowa and much of Kansas.

Honey, which was extracted in Eastern and Central Missouri, ranges from average to slightly above average. No reports were available for the areas affected by the dry weather at time of release. In Southeast Missouri and Northeast Arkansas, bees finished pollination of melons and cucumbers. Deep-rooted crops in pasture and fallow land made a good honey crop. The honey flow from the Southeast Missouri cotton producing area will again be reduced by the Boll Weevil eradication program. In Northern Missouri and Iowa, bees were working soybeans, white Dutch and white sweet clover and alfalfa. Some comb honey was pulled for county fairs and the state fairs are coming during August. The quality of the honey produced to date is very good but has a high moisture content which is normal for July. Beekeepers are in the process of getting their honey houses ready for harvesting the crop from August through October.

MONTANA φφφ

The hot, dry conditions continued into July across the State. The north-central and central sections of the State seemed to be the hardest hit as some places have only received 60-70% of their normal precipitation. The lack of rain, combined with very hot temperatures depleted the moisture in the soil. Billings hit 107 degrees on the 23rd and Helena set a record for the most consecutive days with maximum temperatures of 100 degrees or higher. The weather contributed to a huge wildfire in Glacier National Park that was still burning the end of the month. By the end of July topsoil moisture was 61% very short, considerably less than the 5-year average of 32%. Sub-soil moisture was at 54% very short compared to the 5-year average of 34%.

The bees are reported to be in good condition as some were sitting on irrigated crops. Some beekeepers used to take their bees to mountain locations for the summer but were kept out this year because of grizzly bears. No feeding was reported as the bees were able to find enough nectar to keep them going but irrigation water was being turned off in some areas because of a lack of rainfall. Some beekeepers are not expecting much of a honey crop this year.

NEW ENGLAND φφφ

New England's mean daily temperature was 71 degrees. Two inches of rain fell throughout the month of July.

During the month of July, bees were gathering pollen from clover, a variety of lilies, corn, alfalfa, Queen Anne's lace, various squashes and pumpkins, thistles, sunflowers, purple loosestrife, clematis, beans, and goldenrod.

Some beekeepers were finding their brood chambers filled with nectar, so empty frames were installed to accommodate more nectar.

NORTH CAROLINA φφφ

The month of July has been another rainy month for the state of North Carolina. Some areas of North Carolina have received a substantial amount of rain, causing some pollination problems and a lower production level for some agricultural crops. However, the good news is the emergency quarantine established in 2000 by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for small hive beetle has been lifted. Beekeepers in the eight county area that were quarantined can now move bees and related materials within the state without a special permit. Any individuals moving bees and related equipment from outside the state into North Carolina are required to obtain a valid certificate of apiary inspection from the state of origin verifying they have been inspected with 60 days of the date of entry. Beekeepers are being encouraged to continue to monitor for the presence of the small hive beetle and to report any infestations that they find. The threat of the small hive beetle remains for the apiary industry.

OHIO φφφ

Colonies are generally reported to be in just fair condition as populations have not increased over the past few months. Rain and cool weather has washed away much of the nectar leaving food sources depleted. In most of the state supplemental feeding is necessary to keep hives going. Handlers are hoping for a good fall flow to help the colonies prepare for winter, otherwise there will be a major loss to the industry in hive population. Prices for honey have increased due to supply shortfall.

One wild swarm captured by a handler turned out to have some interesting qualities. It was an “intercast” colony, DNA Analysis showed X gene as African while the Y gene was 50% African and 50 % European. Analysis of its wing structure though showed it to be more European than African. The colony has been destroyed.

OREGON . . .

The State got a short break from the heat the first of July as temperatures cooled off into the 60's along the coast and in the 80's in other areas. The relief only lasted a few days however, as the remainder of the month was hot and dry, much the same as the entire western part of the country. Gusty winds were also reported which didn't help the soil moisture. Thunderstorms occasionally brought a little relief but the lightning also started several wildfires. Malheur County recorded eight consecutive days of temperatures in excess of 100 degrees. On the 12th, Monument set an all-time record when they topped out at 115 degrees. By the end of July, topsoil moisture was 31% of normal and subsoil was 38%.

Many lakes and rivers provided the bees with some relief during the month. They were busy pollinating red clover, cranberries, alfalfa and vegetable seeds.

UTAH φφφ

July weather was hot and dry with some moisture the last week of July. The bees are generally in good condition, however there have been some losses caused by spraying for the West Nile Virus. Apiarists are putting supers on the hives and it appears that it may be a decent crop, despite the lack of moisture. In some instances, early reports indicate 50 pounds of honey per colony. The main source of nectar is alfalfa.

WASHINGTON φφφ

Except for an occasional shower along the coast, the first week of July was very hot and dry across the State. The remainder of the month grew even hotter and drier. The only precipitation came the last week of July in Hoquiam, along the coast and Bellingham in the northwest part of the state but only .04” and .13” was recorded. Temperatures ranged as much as 11-12 degrees above normal with many highs over 100 degrees. Coastal counties reported things were drying up including native trees, grasses and raspberry bushes which was beginning to cause some losses of the berry crops. Producers were working overtime to keep field crops irrigated as they have not received any measurable precipitation for over 36 days. Irrigation Districts in Yakima County further reduced water supplies the end of the month and one basin district was likely to be shut off early. Normal season-ending reservoir carry-over is about 300,000 acre feet of water but current estimates indicate storage at the end of the season could be as low as 125,000 acre feet.

In Western Washington, the bees are reported to be doing pretty well despite the weather conditions. Early morning dew and high humidity kept some ornamental and wildflowers blooming. They also collected good amounts of nectar from blackberries and fireweed in the mountains.

In Eastern Washington, beekeepers that kept their bees in the area for the summer reported they have done very well as they gathered food from the mint and other wild plants along rivers. Many migratory beekeepers went to Montana and North and South Dakota to check on their bees the end of July. Most of their colonies are in pretty good condition but more rain is needed. Bees in some areas of North Dakota are making a slightly better honey crop than last year but some producers brought their bees back from Montana because floral sources have dried up.

WISCONSIN φφφ

The month of July remained in the general trend of year 2003 weather patterns. The state had temperatures in the 70's and 80's with frequent rain and stormy weather. Honeybee collection followed earlier estimates for a poor extraction and quality marginal throughout the state. Beekeepers who have extracted reported very little of the honey crop had produced well. Honeybees have been working mostly white Dutch clover. Honey has been moving well and demand for comb honey was very good due to the poor crop.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	<u>M A Y</u>		<u>2 0 0 3</u>		<u>Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 3</u>	
	QUANTITY		VALUE		QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms		Dollars		Kilograms	Dollars
COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE						
Mexico	3,889		5,100		6,999	8,533
Northern Antilles	823		2,880		3,301	11,641
Aruba	709		2,645		709	2,645
United Kingdom	---		---		816	3,000
Netherlands	---		---		1,009	3,665
Germany	---		---		1,824	5,507
Israel	---		---		3,103	10,000
Kuwait	---		---		124,871	240,326
Saudi Arabia	57,961		81,736		155,493	238,089
Arab Emirates	---		---		115,170	151,070
Malaysia	---		---		7,385	9,686
Philippines	25,405		33,324		33,071	53,684
China	1,242		4,290		2,068	7,150
Korean Republic	---		---		113,668	149,100
Hong Kong	---		---		5,017	21,851
Taiwan	---		---		3,035	8,879
Japan	---		---		40,454	54,021
TOTAL	90,029		129,975		617,993	978,847

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE						
Canada	63,639		132,280		254,845	514,522
Mexico	1,160		6,682		1,160	6,682
Bermuda	843		3,065		1,654	7,128
Bahamas	---		---		2,318	11,376
Jamaica	---		---		2,268	8,799
Barbados	---		---		6,246	23,109
Aruba	---		---		3,030	11,812
Chile	---		---		1,723	8,966
Germany	---		---		21,037	48,098
Singapore	11,524		15,116		12,839	21,480
Indonesia	16,819		46,800		50,457	139,320
China	2,086		5,344		17,975	46,044
Korean Republic	---		---		12,756	30,199
Japan	---		---		15,876	45,619
TOTAL	96,071		209,287		401,984	914,542

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE						
Canada	---		---		1,712	2,727
Mexico	---		---		1,225	2,841
Costa Rica	---		---		18,600	31,620
Spain	---		---		186,002	360,840
Indonesia	---		---		37,200	37,200
TOTAL	---		---		244,739	435,228

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	M A Y 2 0 0 2			Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 3		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE						
Canada	1,249,306	4,310,190	4,337,057	3,183,480	1,097,013	11,056,688
Mexico	203,371	653,874	669,513	506,485	1,559,680	1,594,014
Peru	---	---	---	3,480	5,220	5,506
Chile	212,074	574,089	591,476	1,930,059	5,036,811	5,194,868
Brazil	79,325	205,668	213,289	966,702	2,377,139	2,500,297
Uruguay	104,437	308,109	314,171	401,158	1,139,283	1,164,308
Argentina	983,134	2,576,934	2,675,839	2,005,803	4,928,685	5,134,617
United Kingdom	---	---	---	7,815	22,081	22,908
Germany	---	---	---	18,000	36,360	37,800
Czech Republic	---	---	---	31,070	82,236	86,636
Hungary	18,000	54,680	56,700	54,000	146,300	151,200
Russia	---	---	---	348	2,018	2,305
Ukraine	---	---	---	34,128	49,690	55,341
Spain	---	---	---	304	2,073	2,120
Romania	38,342	99,317	104,299	105,818	272,252	286,186
Turkey	---	---	---	55,627	117,291	122,632
India	370,840	805,602	858,002	628,700	1,345,977	1,424,747
Pakistan	38,000	55,199	60,734	76,000	108,969	118,364
Vietnam	---	---	---	171,400	365,205	387,057
China, Mainland	135,430	254,367	261,495	1,645,575	2,524,723	2,671,764
Australia	---	---	---	19,868	58,956	59,371
New Zealand	---	---	---	800	4,347	4,600
TOTAL	3,152,013	9,237,675	9,452,072	12,549,508	33,075,989	34,068,665

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	---	---	---	150,769	502,685	511,184
Mexico	135,218	398,724	409,656	243,922	705,348	722,994
Chile	97,804	281,291	289,942	425,886	1,168,292	1,212,024
Brazil	97,520	255,616	268,093	328,600	737,303	771,906
Uruguay	---	---	---	467,684	1,367,418	1,400,267
Argentina	115,168	279,712	290,773	384,548	930,784	969,410
Austria	---	---	---	460	3,507	3,574
Turkey	20,352	45,696	49,600	61,128	131,521	139,741
India	93,000	229,400	232,694	904,800	2,008,675	2,082,662
Vietnam	48,720	89,628	95,594	401,024	736,946	780,247
China	798,660	1,472,794	1,551,162	1,765,924	3,073,191	3,247,664
Australia	---	---	---	18,000	54,660	57,160
Egypt	---	---	---	100,000	165,000	175,155
TOTAL	1,406,442	3,052,861	3,187,514	5,252,745	11,585,330	12,073,988

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER

Canada	2,395	7,452	7,495	20,789	67,120	67,390
Mexico	931,240	2,532,309	2,595,841	1,886,920	4,976,770	5,108,327
Dom. Republic	---	---	---	898	2,640	2,736
Peru	37,110	85,882	88,982	574,698	1,153,529	1,207,316
Chile	248,379	675,113	703,810	1,701,088	4,373,846	4,519,259
Brazil	466,780	1,196,473	1,249,279	1,636,312	3,923,314	4,103,064

IMPORTS continued

Uruguay	884,349	2,538,542	2,602,931	2,614,824	7,241,266	7,449,006
Argentina	121,296	241,512	253,499	229,791	490,765	512,702
Denmark	---	---	---	12,096	51,710	55,560
France	---	---	---	1,040	4,420	4,634
Germany	25,231	112,058	113,118	1,070,057	347,892	418,483
Latvia	---	---	---	1,260	2,134	2,364
Ukraine	18,444	48,408	50,908	185,973	411,717	434,892
Moldova	18,130	42,172	44,056	108,490	230,719	239,50
Italy	1,324	3,065	3,361	2,213	5,233	5,745
Romania	---	---	---	339,387	794,967	832,982
Bulgaria	57,550	143,426	150,544	339,630	748,702	802,684
Turkey	209,820	587,738	605,924	874,556	2,096,124	2,210,956
India	157,000	359,800	373,581	996,233	2,092,598	2,229,793
Pakistan	---	---	---	636	2,044	2,273
Thailand	32,480	74,134	77,085	172,207	389,946	406,094
Vietnam	1,416,368	3,018,682	3,193,118	3,313,522	6,795,797	7,180,181
Malaysia	180,000	299,047	331,159	1,010,100	1,465,531	1,619,967
China	740,804	1,199,566	1,270,964	3,252,875	4,955,763	5,290,212
New Zealand	---	---	---	20,040	60,506	62,504
Burkina	---	---	---	19,095	38,190	41,356

TOTAL	5,547,376	13,162,314	13,712,254	19,415,730	42,723,243	44,810,078
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NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Canada	18,993	36,605	36,705	95,934	221,533	225,753
Mexico	267,248	729,783	735,583	1,449,978	3,833,928	3,858,378
Dom. Republic	51,900	36,000	38,875	154,128	116,800	129,273
Peru	---	---	---	2,320	3,480	3,670
Chile	---	---	---	95,356	250,604	259,248
Brazil	20,090	44,293	47,368	374,274	873,694	909,859
Uruguay	---	---	---	58,402	148,573	152,683
Argentina	---	---	---	10,198	31,881	33,387
France	---	---	---	1,112	7,256	8,240
Austria	---	---	---	4,797	29,381	33,745
Switzerland	587	4,336	4,588	6,302	44,760	46,320
Ukraine	---	---	---	5,046	8,075	9,140
Spain	---	---	---	6,283	20,895	22,395
Italy	1,403	3,230	3,556	5,119	14,489	15,906
Greece	---	---	---	393	2,680	2,853
India	---	---	---	204,600	465,062	549,995
Vietnam	---	---	---	96,060	170,612	181,770
Hong Kong	---	---	---	5,400	23,364	23,971
Taiwan	1,089	2,522	2,634	36,112	34,937	38,182
Australia	---	---	---	9,969	41,623	44,204

TOTAL	361,310	856,769	869,309	2,611,783	6,343,627	6,548,972
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SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION